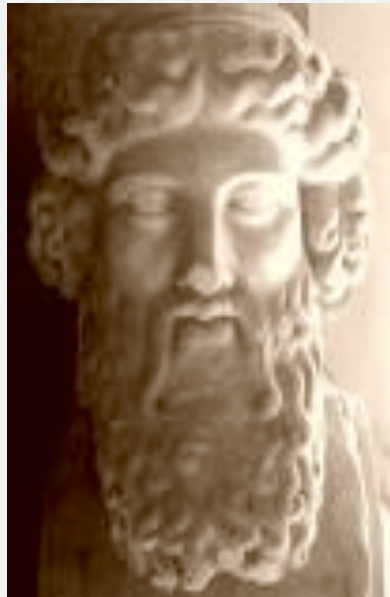


Course Website

- <http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil4/>

Religion and Ethics

Divine Command
Theory
(Euthyphro)



■ Plato
427-347 B.C.

Euthyphro

What is Socrates' Main Question?

Euthyphro

is the reason why something is holy the
fact that the gods love it? Or,
is the reason why the gods love something
that is holy the fact it is holy?

Euthyphro/DCT

- (a) is the reason why certain acts are right the sole fact that God has commanded that they are right? Or,
- (b) is the reason why God has commanded that certain acts are right the fact that they are right?

Euthyphro/DCT

- Note that those who hold to DCT say YES to (a). We'll come back to (a) and (b).

Two Versions of DCT:

-Epistemological DCT

-Metaphysical DCT

Euthyphro/DCT

Epistemological DCT:

Any guesses on what epistemology is??

Epistemic access to moral principles?

Euthyphro/DCT

- Metaphysical DCT:

What is metaphysics?

Those who hold to metaphysical DCT are concerned with what makes and action right.

Euthyphro/DCT

- So, what makes an action right (or wrong) for the metaphysical Divine Command Theorist?

Euthyphro/DCT

- An Objection to Metaphysical Divine Command Theory:

“The Euthyphro Dilemma”:

Premise (1): Either (a) actions are right (or wrong) in virtue of the fact that God has commanded that they are. Or,

(b) God has commanded certain actions to be right (or wrong) in virtue of the fact that the actions in question are in fact right (or wrong)

Euthyphro/DCT

Premise (2): (a) is not true.

Therefore, (b) is true.

But, (b) is incompatible with metaphysical
DCT.